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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

District 4

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
(UNDERGROUND COAL MINE)

FATAL OUTBURST OF COAL ACCIDENT

No. 21 mine (ID No. 46-05801)
W-P Coal Company
Stirrat, Logan County, West Virginia

November 29, 1983

by

James E. Davis
Coal Mine Safety & Health Inspector

Originating Office - Mine Safety and Health Administration
P. O. Box 112, Mount Hope, West Virginia. 25880
J. M. Krese, District Manager

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Abstract of Investigation

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Authority – This report is based on an investigation made pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, Public Law 91-173, as amended by Public Law 95-164

Section A—Identification Data

1. Title of investigation:
Fatal Outburst of Coal Accident

2. Date MSHA investigation started:
November 29, 1983

3. Report release date:

4. Mine:
No. 21 mine

5. Mine ID number:
46-05801

6. Company:
W-P Coal Company

7. Town, County, State:
Stirrat, Logan County, WV

8. Author(s):
James E. Davis

Section B—Mine Information

9. Daily production:
2,500 tons

10. Surface employment:
20

11. Underground employment:
120

12. Name of coalbed:
Chilton

13. Thickness of coalbed:
42"

Section C—Last Quarter Injury Frequency Rate (HSAC) for:

14. Industry:
10.16

15. This operation:
7.75

16. Training program approved:
Yes

17. Mine Profile Rating:
Not currently rated

Section D—Originating Office

18. Mine Safety and Health Administration
Coal Mine Health and Safety District No.: 4

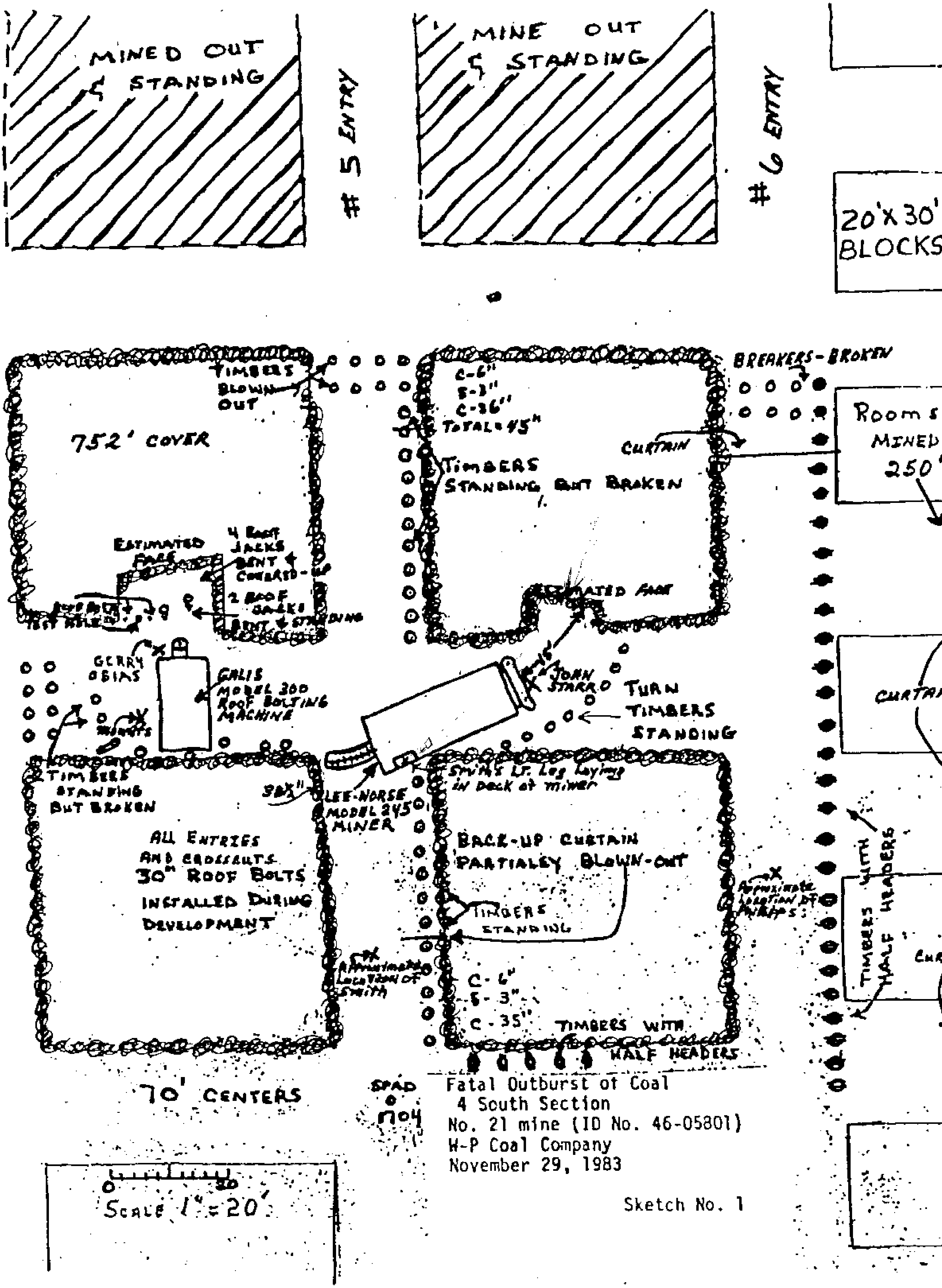
Address: POB 112
Mt. Hope, WV 25880

Section E—Abstract

On Tuesday, November 29, 1983, at approximately 5:15 p.m., an outburst of coal accident occurred in the Nos. 4 and 5 pillar workings, on the 4 south section (004-0), of No. 21 mine, W-P Coal Company, Stirrat, Logan County, WV. The accident resulted in five miners being injured. On December 2, 1983, Gerry Sias, roof bolting machine operator, died as a result of his injuries. Sias had 5½ years total mining experience, all at the No. 21 mine, and 3 years as a roof bolting machine operator. The accident and resultant fatality occurred when management failed to adopt a method of mining during overall pillar recovery that was designed to minimize the possibility of outbursts or squeezes.

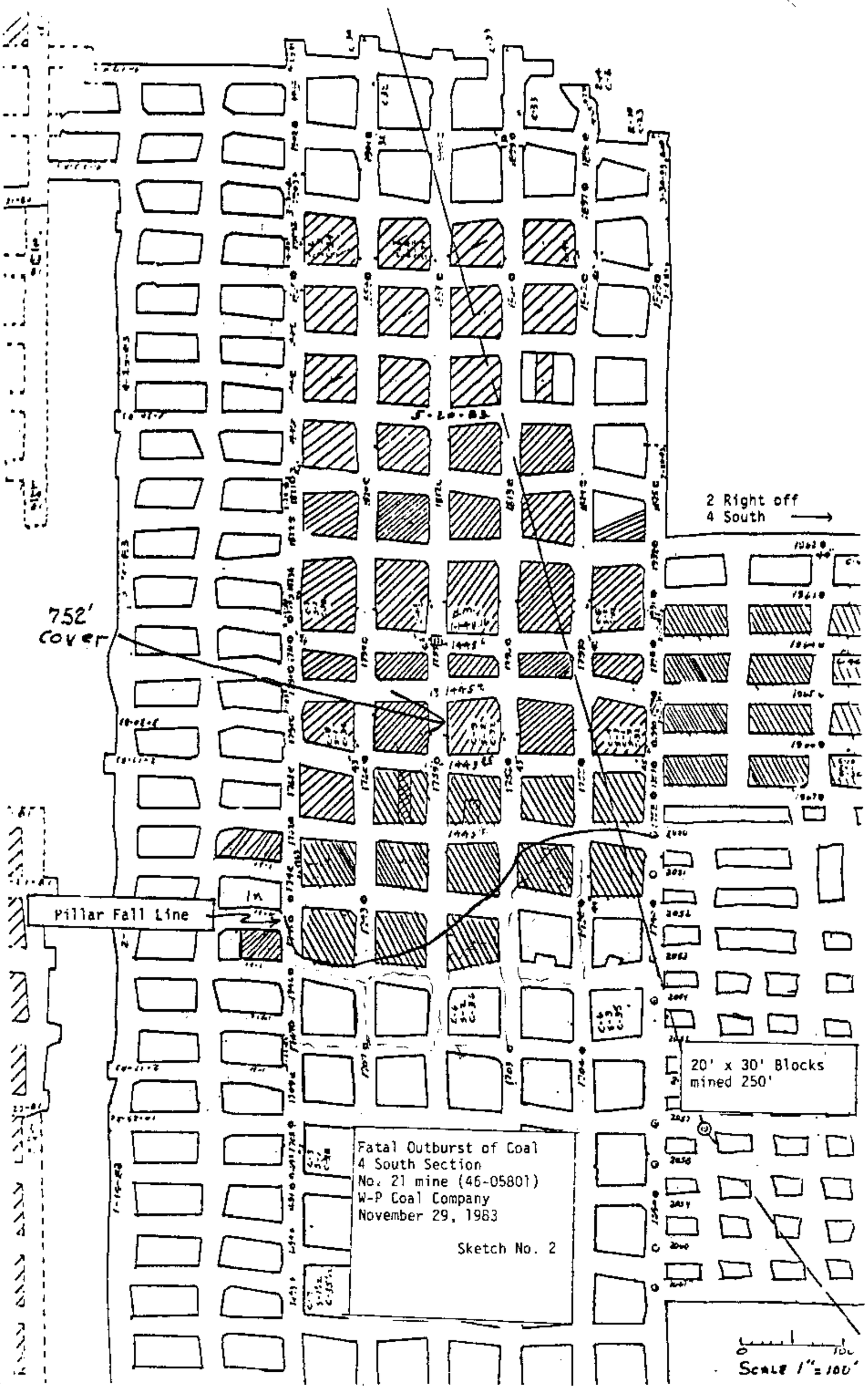
Section F—Mine Organization

Company officials:	Name	Address
19. President:	D. J. Carney	POB 118 Pittsburgh, PA 15230
20. Superintendent:	Gary Collins	General Delivery Omar, WV 25638
21. Safety Director:	Francis Oliver, Jr.	General Delivery Omar, WV 25638
22. Principle officer—H&S:	Francis Oliver, Jr.	General Delivery Omar, WV 25638
23. Labor Organization:	UMWA, District 17	UMWA Bldg. Charleston, WV 25304
24. Chairman—H&S Committee:	Randall Evans	POB 45 Sarah Ann, WV 25644


MINED OUT
& STANDING
# 5 ENTRY
MINE OUT
& STANDING
# 6 ENTRY
20'X 30'
BLOCKS
TIMBERS
BLOWN
OUT
752' COVER
C-6"
S-3"
C-36"
TOTAL=45"
TIMBERS
STANDING BUT BRAKEN
CURTAIN
BREAKERS-BROKEN
Rooms
MINED
250'
ESTIMATED
FACE
4 ROOF
JACKS
BENT &
COVERED-UP
ESTIMATED FACE
GERRY
OBIAS
GALIS
MODEL 300
ROOF BOLTING
MACHINE
JOHN
STARRO
TURN
TIMBERS
STANDING
CURTAIN
2 TIMBERS
STANDING
BUT BROKEN
LEE-NORSE
MODEL 245
MINER
Smith's Lt. Leg laying
in deck of miner
ALL ENTRIES
AND CROSSCUTS
30" ROOF BOLTS
INSTALLED DURING
DEVELOPMENT
BACK-UP CURTAIN
PARTIALEY BLOWN-OUT
TIMBERS
STANDING
Approximate
location of
Phillips
Approximate
Location of
Smith
C-6"
S-3"
C-35"
TIMBERS WITH
HALF HEADERS
TIMBERS WITH
HALF HEADERS
70' CENTERS
SPAD
1704
0 20
SCALE 1" = 20'

Fatal Outburst of Coal
4 South Section
No. 21 mine (ID No. 46-05801)
W-P Coal Company
November 29, 1983

Sketch No. 1


752'
cover
Pillar Fall Line
2 Right off
4 South
20' x 30' Blocks
mined 250'
Fatal Outburst of Coal
4 South Section
No. 21 mine (46-05801)
W-P Coal Company
November 29, 1983
Sketch No. 2
Scale 1" = 100'

Commentary

At 4 p.m., Tuesday, November 29, 1983, the 4 south section crew, under the supervision of Harold R. Phillips, entered the mine and traveled to the working section. While the crew waited at the dinner hole, Phillips examined the working places, pillar line, and haulageways. After completing the examinations and returning to the dinner hole, Phillips informed the crew during a safety meeting that production was to be started in the No. 4 coal pillar. He also explained that the mine roof inby the Nos. 4 and 5 pillar was still standing. Because of this condition, Phillips cautioned the crew to be extremely careful while mining in the No. 4 and No. 5 coal pillar. Mining operations in the No. 4 and No. 5 coal pillar were to be attacked from the crosscut side.

Phillips, along with Joe Mounts, Jr., Gerry Sias (roof bolting crew), and Holly Smith, continuous mining machine operator, proceeded to the No. 4 pillar block. After observing the area of mine roof still standing inby the No. 4 and No. 5 pillar blocks and recalling that a coal outburst had occurred approximately 3 weeks prior when the crew was removing the Nos. 4 and 5 pillar blocks immediately inby the present pillars which resulted in the roof bolting machine being covered, it was decided to only take a partial cut (10 feet) before installing permanent roof supports in the working place. It was learned that the pillar blocks immediately inby the present line of coal pillars had been removed approximately 3 weeks prior to the accident. Work on the section during the 3 weeks consisted of advancing 8 rooms driven on 50-foot centers approximately 250 feet deep off No. 6 entry.

The continuous mining machine crew completed the partial cut in No. 4 pillar and moved to the No. 5 pillar block. The roof bolting crew moved the bolting machine into the crosscut between Nos. 3 and 4 entries where they installed 1 roof bolt prior to moving the machine into the face area. The roof bolting crew installed six temporary roof support jacks. According to Mounts, Sias had drilled a 42-inch test hole and installed three 30-inch roof bolts as mining operations were being conducted in the No. 5 pillar block.

Louis C. Conners, Jr. and William E. Bircher, shuttle car operators, stated that approximately three shuttle cars of coal had been removed from the No. 5 pillar block. Bircher also stated the continuous mining machine was cutting down coal when the accident occurred. Conners was located at the section coal feeder about 200 feet from the accident scene and the concussion shook him. Bircher was located in the crosscut between Nos. 5 and 6 entries, 140 feet outby the accident scene. He had just completed anchoring off the excess trailing cable, returned, and mounted his shuttle car. The forces from the outburst blew him out of the operator's compartment. Bircher stated he heard hollering for help coming from the men working in the face area. Bircher proceeded in No. 5 entry toward the working faces. He located Smith, continuous mining machine operator, in No. 5 entry approximately 80 feet outby the pillar line. Smith's left leg had been severed. Conners arrived and assisted Smith as Bircher proceeded to the No. 5 pillar block where he found John Starr, continuous mining machine helper, with his legs under the ripperhead of the continuous mining machine. The continuous mining machine had been moved by the forces of the outburst about 15 feet. David D. Robinson, scoop operator, arrived at the scene and found Phillips in No. 6 entry just outby the No. 5 pillar block. Phillips received a broken arm.

Bircher then proceeded to the No. 4 pillar block where he found Mounts and Sias. Mounts was located in the crosscut and to the left of the roof bolting machine. He appeared to be suffering from shock with no visual injuries. Sias (victim) was found with his head against the front of the roof bolting machine. Sias received serious head injuries.

Vernon Maynard, section electrician, notified the dispatcher of the accident and requested help in recovering the injured miners. Crew members from the first left section arrived on the section at about 6:15 p.m. The crew assisted in administering first-aid and removing the injured miners to the surface. The miners were placed in ambulances and transported to the Logan General Hospital. Sias was admitted and treated; because of the seriousness of his head injury, he was transferred to the Charleston Area Medical Center located in Charleston, WV. Sias expired at 6:40 p.m., December 2, 1983.

Discussion and Evaluation

The investigation revealed the following factors relevant to the accident:

1. A continuous mining machine was used to develop most of the mine, using the room-and-pillar method to advance the sections. Coal was hauled from the working faces to the section belt feeder and dumped on the belt line where it was transported to the surface.

2. Sections were advanced on 70-foot centers lengthwise and crosswise. Entries (rooms) off No. 1 entry were developed on 80-foot centers and crosscuts on 50-foot centers as the section advanced. Entries (rooms) and crosscuts off No. 6 entry were developed on 40-foot centers as retreat mining was employed. This method of mining had been employed during the life of the mine. (See sketch No. 2.)

3. The mine was developed by entering the coal seam through 4 drifts with a cover ranging from 200 feet to 752 feet. The mine roof consisted of massive sandstone ranging in thickness from 45 to 67 feet. The mine floor consisted of massive sandstone of an undetermined thickness.

4. Four south section was developed under about 752 feet of cover. The immediate roof consisted of layers of sandstone ranging from 45 to 67 feet in thickness. The coal height ranged from 38½ to 42 inches and a sandstone mine floor of undetermined thickness.

5. Observations at the accident scene revealed that breaker and turn posts in the working faces and along the pillar line had been installed in excess of the minimum requirements of the approved roof control plan. The mined-out areas inby the pillar line revealed that a partial roof fall (1-2 feet thick) had occurred to the left of the accident scene. The roof inby the Nos. 4 and 5 pillar blocks being mined was still standing for a distance of about 70 feet. (See sketch No. 1.) When the outburst occurred, coal was dislodged from the ribs of the pillars for one crosscut and deposited on the mine floor. The depth ranging from 0-38 inches.

6. The Lee-Norse continuous mining machine, model No. 245-10-7E, serial No. 8567, which was cutting the face of No. 5 pillar block when the outburst occurred was moved by the force about 15 feet outby the working face. The continuous mining machine measured 33 feet long, 10½ feet wide, 24 inches high, and weighed about 26½ tons. The 3-inch thick ripperhead support arms were cracked; the two

brackets holding the ripperhead jacks were broken; the two gathering head hinge pins were broken; the left ripperhead motor support bracket was broken; the bolts used to mount the contactor control panel located in the operator's compartment were broken; portions of the hydraulic fittings were broken off the valve chest located in the operator's deck; and the boom conveyor was cracked on both sides.

7. An examination of the No. 4 pillar working face revealed the forces on the coal block were exerted from the area inby and to the right of the pillar. The two temporary roof support jacks still standing were bent in the outby direction and toward the No. 4 entry. The face of No. 5 pillar block contained a small opening which allowed slight visibility over the top of the coal pillar. The coal pillars in the rooms off No. 6 entry revealed that the roof was still standing but large amounts of coal had been dislodged from the pillar ribs for as far as one could see (about 60 feet into the rooms) along the present pillar line and inby for about 60 feet. Coal sloughing from the ribs was present in the rooms outby the present pillar line for one crosscut.

8. An examination of the conditions on the section revealed that the mine roof and the mine floor did not contain any cracks. No sloughing of ribs was observed except around the Nos. 4 and 5 pillars being mined and the Nos. 4 and 5 pillars immediately outby the accident scene.

9. The mine roof had been supported with 30-inch conventional roof bolts during advancement. Pillar splits were supported by the same method. The 4 south section was developed between two mined-out areas. Retreat mining began in May 1983 and 10 lines of pillars (about 780 feet) had been mined. The 2 right section located inby the accident scene was developed about 730 feet and retreat mining in this area was completed to within 150 feet of the 4 south section No. 6 entry. (See sketch No. 2.)

10. According to statements received from Starr and Mounts, a previous outburst of coal accident had occurred aproximately 3 weeks prior to this one on the 4 south section (004-0) in the Nos. 4 and 5 pillar blocks immediately inby the 2 pillar blocks involved in this accident (see sketch); however, no lost time injuries to the miners or damage to the equipment were sustained. Starr stated he was afraid because the first outburst bumped so hard it moved the continuous mining machine back about 2 feet as he was loading a shuttle car on the third cut in the No. 4 entry pillar block. During this outburst the roof bolting machine was covered with coal; the deck was totally inaccessible and the coal had to be removed from the top of the machine to the bottom of the deck. Starr explained that coal shot out about 6 feet from the face of the No. 4 pillar and piled loose coal about 24 inches high to the top of the continuous mining machine. When Starr went back into the place to tram the continuous mining machine out of the place, it bumped again and vibrated the continuous mining machine as if a shuttle car had hit the rear of the machine. The first bump in the No. 4 pillar did not give any warning and they did not go back to work in the place until Lawrence Mendez, mine foreman - 2nd shift, examined the place.

11. Starr explained that immediately prior to this accident, Smith was operating the continuous mining machine. He and Phillips were positioned at the radius turn post near the continuous mining machine in the No. 5 pillar working. Starr

stated he had a feeling it was going to bump again so he got up from beside Phillips and moved over toward Smith, who was positioned in the deck of the continuous mining machine. This position allowed him to watch the trailing cable. Starr explained as he reached this position, the outburst occurred.

12. Mounts revealed that a previous outburst of coal accident occurred approximately three weeks prior to this accident. The force knocked Sias and him down, partially covering them with coal, and tore the cap light off Sias' hard hat. Mounts revealed he was positioned beside the lights on the roof bolting machine when the second outburst occurred.

13. Phillips revealed that the last thing he remembered was the continuous mining machine cutting coal in the No. 5 pillar. He also stated that they have never had any outburst of coal like this before. However, on one other occasion, a small amount of coal rolled and/or was blown off the coal ribs.

14. The interview of Holly D. Smith, injured, revealed that a similar coal outburst had occurred on the same working section (004-0) approximately three weeks prior to this fatal coal outburst accident. Smith related that at the time of the previous outburst, he was working on another production section and it was common knowledge among the workers at the mine that the previous outburst had occurred. Smith was working his second shift on the 4 south section (004-0) and at the time of the fatal coal outburst, was operating the continuous mining machine. He, recognizing the possibility of a second outburst, was apprehensive about mining in the area.

15. Nicholas Ramirez, roof bolting machine operator - day shift, revealed that the roof on the 4 south section was supported with 30-inch conventional roof bolts and the roof was comprised of hard massive sandstone. The test holes were drilled to 42 inches in depth and no cracks or adverse roof conditions were detected. The torque on the installed roof bolts ranged from 120 to 160 foot-pounds. He also explained that more pressure was being exerted on the Nos. 4 and 5 pillar blocks.

16. According to William F. Perry, electrician - third shift, the 4 south section equipment was moved from the rooms developed on the right side of the section to the chain pillars on Monday night, third shift, November 28, 1983.

17. According to Joe E. Bragg, mine foreman - day shift, there had been no change in the roof conditions on the pillar line since the rooms were started off No. 6 entry approximately three weeks prior to the accident. He explained that due to the sandstone roof there are times when four complete pillar blocks are mined before a roof fall occurs.

18. Leslie T. Blevins, continuous mining machine operator - day shift, revealed that normally two completed pillars have to be mined before a roof fall will occur. He stated that a slight roof fall occurred on the left side of the mined-out area Tuesday morning, November 29, 1983.

Findings of Fact

The method of mining being followed during overall pillar recovery was not designed to minimize the possibility of outbursts or squeezes, in that pillars of different dimensions were developed along the pillar line in the 4 south section (004-0) which permitted excessive pressures on the larger pillar blocks, a violation of Section 75.201-2(a).

Conclusion

The accident occurred because mine management failed to recognize the hazard being created by the method of mining used to recover pillars and adopt a method of mining for the overall pillar recovery that was designed to minimize the possibility of outbursts or squeezes.

James E. Davis

James E. Davis

Approved by:

Fred T. Castel
Subdistrict Manager

District Manager

APPENDIX

List of persons furnishing information and/or present during the investigation:

W-P Coal Company Officials

Kenneth Cooper	General Manager
Vernon Coronet	General Superintendent
Gary Collins	Superintendent
Joe E. Bragg	Mine Foreman - Day Shift
Lawrence Mendez	Mine Foreman - Evening Shift
Freddie Vance	Assistant Mine Foreman - Evening Shift
Harold R. Phillips	Section Foreman - Evening Shift (Injured)
Gary Oliver	Section Foreman - Day Shift
Richard Curtis	Section Foreman - Evening Shift
Francis Oliver, Jr.	Safety Director
Larry E. Chafin	Engineer
John Clark	Engineer
Linville Mahon	Safety Inspector
Dewey Wiley	Personnel Manager

W-P Coal Company Employees

Vernon W. Maynard, Jr.	Electrician
Robin D. Robinson	Scoop Operator
Louis C. Conner, Jr.	Shuttle Car Operator
William E. Bircher	Shuttle Car Operator
Nicholas Ramirez	Roof Bolting Machine Operator
Joe Mounts, Jr.	Roof Bolting Machine Operator (Injured)
John Starr	Continuous Mining Machine Helper (Injured)
William F. Perry	Electrician - Third Shift
Leslie T. Blevins	Continuous Mining Machine Operator - Day Shift
John R. Ghee	Continuous Mining Machine Helper - Day Shift
Holly D. Smith	Continuous Mining Machine Operator - Second Shift

Representatives of Miners United Mine Workers of America

Richard C. Cooper	District Inspector
Ronald Nelson	District Inspector
Randall Evans	President - Local 5922 and Chairman, Safety Committee

West Virginia Department of Mines

Joaquine Ferrell	Inspector-at-Large
Clyde Lucas	District Inspector (Electrical)
Herschel Cline	District Inspector
Lee Sipple	District Inspector
Billy S. Dotson	District Inspector

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Leighton C. Farley, Jr.	Mine Safety & Health Specialist
Fred H. Ryan	Supervisory Mine Safety & Health Specialist (Roof Control)
Oscar R. Nally	Acting Subdistrict Manager
Erman R. Altizer	Supervisory Coal Mine Safety & Health Inspector
James C. Worf	Coal Mine Safety & Health Inspector (Roof Control)
James E. Davis	Coal Mine Safety & Health Inspector

Data Sheet

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Section A—Victim Data

1. Name: Gerry Sias
2. Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female
3. Social Security Number: 235-80-5299
4. Age: 35
5. Job Classification: Roof bolting machine operator
6. Experience at this Classification: 3 years
7. Total Mining Experience: 5½ years
8. What activity was being performed at time of accident? Roof bolting machine operator
9. Victim's Experience at this Activity: 3 years
10. Was victim trained in this task? Yes

Section B—Victim Data for Health and Safety Courses/Training Received *(related to accident)*

	Date Received
11. Annual Refresher	4/30/83
12.	
13.	
14.	

Section C—Supervisor Data *(supervisor of victim)*

15. Name: Harold R. Phillips
16. Certified: ☒ Yes ☐ No
17. Experience as Supervisor: 1½ years
18. Total Mining Experience: 5 years 8 months

Section D—Supervisor Data for Health and Safety Courses/Training Received *(related to accident)*

	Date Received
19. Annual Refresher	4/30/83
20.	
21.	
22.	

23. When was the supervisor last present at accident scene prior to the accident? Present at time of accident

24. What did he do when he was there? Observed mining operations

25. When was he last in contact with the victim? Immediately prior to accident

26. Did he issue instructions relative to the accident? No

27. Was he aware of or did he express an awareness of any unsafe practice or condition?
Yes, at the beginning of the shift just after conducting an examination of the workin faces. The supervisor instructed the crew to watch the roof in Nos. 4 and 5 pillar because it looked like it may be taking weight.

Section I (Coal Only)

MSHA and/or State Certification and/or Qualification

Mine ID 46-05801 Sias

		Date Training Plan Approved	Date Training Received
*[x]	Certified Person (Underground)	1/9/79	
*[ ]	Certified Person (Surface)		
*[x]	Methane & Oxygen Deficiency Testing	4/30/83	
*[ ]	Electrical		
*[ ]	Energized Surface High Voltage		
[ ]	Dust		
[ ]	Dust (Calibration)		
[ ]	Noise		
*[ ]	Impoundments		
*[ ]	Hoisting Engineer		

*Annual Retraining Required

Section II (Metal/Non-Metal and Coal)
MSHA Training Programs Completed

Date of Hire 3/31/78 Date Training Plan Approved 1/9/79

Required Training (Victim)		Date Training Received
[ ]	New Miner (U.G.)	
[ ]	New Miner (Sur.)	
[x]	Newly Employed Experienced (U.G)	3/31/78
[ ]	Newly Employed Experienced (Sur.)	
[x]	Annual Refresher (U.G.)	4/30/83
[ ]	Annual Refresher (Sur.)	

Required Training (Victim)		Date Training Received
[ ]	Hazard Training (U.G.)	
[ ]	Hazard Training (Sur.)	

Task Training
Specify Type:

Section III

Company Training Program Completed:

Training	OJT/Formal	Instructor	Date Completed
Annual Retraining		Lenville Mahon	4/30/83

Section IV

Did victim have training specifically related to the task being performed at the time of the accident?

☐ YES ☐ NO WHEN?_____

Section V

Recommend Training Plan Evaluation by Education and Training Office?

☐ YES ☒ NO

Data Sheet

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Section A—Victim Data (Injured)

1. Name: Harold R. Phillips
2. Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female
3. Social Security Number: 232-86-5224
4. Age: 31
5. Job Classification: Section Foreman
6. Experience at this Classification: 1½ years
7. Total Mining Experience: 5 years 8 months
8. What activity was being performed at time of accident? Observing mining operations
9. Victim's Experience at this Activity: 1½ years
10. Was victim trained in this task? Yes

Section B—Victim Data for Health and Safety Courses/Training Received *(related to accident)*

	Date Received
11. Annual Retraining	4/30/83
12.	
13.	
14.	

Section C—Supervisor Data *(supervisor of victim)*

15. Name: Lawrence Mendez
16. Certified: ☒ Yes ☐ No
17. Experience as Supervisor: 9 years
18. Total Mining Experience: 12 years

Section D—Supervisor Data for Health and Safety Courses/Training Received *(related to accident)*

	Date Received
19. Annual Retraining	
20.	
21.	
22.	

23. When was the supervisor last present at accident scene prior to the accident? Unknown

24. What did he do when he was there?

25. When was he last in contact with the victim? 4 p.m., 11/29/83

26. Did he issue instructions relative to the accident?

27. Was he aware of or did he express an awareness of any unsafe practice or condition?

Section I (Coal Only)

MSHA and/or State Certification and/or Qualification

Mine ID 46-05801 Phillips

		Date Training Plan Approved 1/9/79 Date Training Received			Date Training Received
*[x]	Certified Person (Underground)	4/7/78	[ ]	Dust	
*[ ]	Certified Person (Surface)		[ ]	Dust (Calibration)	
*[x]	Methane & Oxygen Deficiency Testing	4/30/83	[ ]	Noise	
*[ ]	Electrical		*[ ]	Impoundments	
*[ ]	Energized Surface High Voltage		*[ ]	Hoisting Engineer	

*Annual Retraining Required

Section II (Metal/Non-Metal and Coal)
MSHA Training Programs Completed

Date of Hire 4/7/78 Date Training Plan Approved 1/9/79

Required Training (Victim)		Date Training Received	Required Training (Victim)		Date Training Received
[ ]	New Miner (U.G.)		[ ]	Hazard Training (U.G.)	
[ ]	New Miner (Sur.)		[ ]	Hazard Training (Sur.)	
[ ]	Newly Employed Experienced (U.G)				
[ ]	Newly Employed Experienced (Sur.)		Task Training Specify Type:		
[x]	Annual Refresher (U.G.)	4/30/83	OJT		
[ ]	Annual Refresher (Sur.)				

Section III

Company Training Program Completed:

Training	OJT/Formal	Instructor	Date Completed
Annual Retraining		Linville Mahon	4/30/83
First-Aid		James Hawkins	9/1/83

Section IV

Did victim have training specifically related to the task being performed at the time of the accident?

[x] YES [ ] NO WHEN? 2/5-6/82

By Whom: Freddie Vance & Lawrence Mendez How was training given? OJT

Section V

Recommend Training Plan Evaluation by Education and Training Office?

[ ] YES [ ] NO

Data Sheet

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Section A—Victim Data (Injured)

1. Name: Joe Mounts

2. Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female

3. Social Security Number: 233-58-1845

4. Age: 46

5. Job Classification: Roof bolting machine operator

6. Experience at this Classification: 2 years

7. Total Mining Experience: 5½ years

8. What activity was being performed at time of accident? Roof bolting machine helper

9. Victim's Experience at this Activity: 2 years

10. Was victim trained in this task? Yes

Section B—Victim Data for Health and Safety Courses/Training Received *(related to accident)*

	Date Received
11. Annual Retraining	4/30/83
12.	
13.	
14.	

Section C—Supervisor Data *(supervisor of victim)*

15. Name: Harold R. Phillips

16. Certified: ☒ Yes ☐ No

17. Experience as Supervisor: 1½ years

18. Total Mining Experience: 5 years 8 months

Section D—Supervisor Data for Health and Safety Courses/Training Received *(related to accident)*

	Date Received
19. Annual Refresher	4/30/83
20.	
21.	
22.	

23. When was the supervisor last present at accident scene prior to the accident? Present at time of accident

24. What did he do when he was there? Observed mining operations

25. When was he last in contact with the victim? Immediately prior to accident

26. Did he issue instructions relative to the accident? Yes

27. Was he aware of or did he express an awareness of any unsafe practice or condition? Yes

Section I (Coal Only)

MSHA and/or State Certification and/or Qualification

Mine ID 46-05801 Mounts

		Date Training Plan Approved / Date Training Received			Date Training Received
*[X]	Certified Person (Underground)	1/9/79	[ ]	Dust	
*[ ]	Certified Person (Surface)		[ ]	Dust (Calibration)	
*[X]	Methane & Oxygen Deficiency Testing	4/30/83	[ ]	Noise	
*[ ]	Electrical		*[ ]	Impoundments	
*[ ]	Energized Surface High Voltage		*[ ]	Hoisting Engineer	

*Annual Retraining Required

Section II (Metal/Non-Metal and Coal)
MSHA Training Programs Completed

Date of Hire 1/22/79 Date Training Plan Approved 1/9/79

Required Training (Victim)		Date Training Received	Required Training (Victim)		Date Training Received
[ ]	New Miner (U.G.)		[ ]	Hazard Training (U.G.)	
[ ]	New Miner (Sur.)		[ ]	Hazard Training (Sur.)	
[X]	Newly Employed Experienced (U.G)	1/22/79			
[ ]	Newly Employed Experienced (Sur.)		Task Training Specify Type:		
[X]	Annual Refresher (U.G.)	4/30/83			
[ ]	Annual Refresher (Sur.)				

Section III

Company Training Program Completed:

Training	OJT/Formal	Instructor	Date Completed
Annual Retraining		Leinville Mahon	4/30/83

Séction IV

Did victim have training specifically related to the task being performed at the time of the accident?

☐ YES ☐ NO WHEN?_____

Section V

Recommend Training Plan Evaluation by Education and Training Office?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Data Sheet

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Section A—Victim Data (Injured)

1. Name: John Starr

2. Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female

3. Social Security Number: 296-46-9478

4. Age: 34

5. Job Classification: Continuous mining machine helper

6. Experience at this Classification: 1 year

7. Total Mining Experience: 8 years 10 months

8. What activity was being performed at time of accident? Continuous mining machine helper

9. Victim's Experience at this Activity: 1 year

10. Was victim trained in this task? Yes

Section B—Victim Data for Health and Safety Courses/Training Received *(related to accident)*

	Date Received
11. Annual Retraining	10/1/83
12.	
13.	
14.	

Section C—Supervisor Data *(supervisor of victim)*

15. Name: Harold R. Phillips

16. Certified: ☒ Yes ☐ No

17. Experience as Supervisor: 1½ years

18. Total Mining Experience: 5 years 8 months

Section D—Supervisor Data for Health and Safety Courses/Training Received *(related to accident)*

	Date Received
19. Annual Retraining	4/30/83
20.	
21.	
22.	

23. When was the supervisor last present at accident scene prior to the accident?
Present at time of accident

24. What did he do when he was there?
Observed mining operations

25. When was he last in contact with the victim?
Immediately prior to accident

26. Did he issue instructions relative to the accident?
Yes

27. Was he aware of or did he express an awareness of any unsafe practice or condition?
Yes

Section I (Coal Only)

MSHA and/or State Certification and/or Qualification

Mine ID 46-05801 Starr

Date Training Plan Approved 1/9/79

		Date Training Received			Date Training Received
*[x]	Certified Person (Underground)		[ ]	Dust	
*[ ]	Certified Person (Surface)		[ ]	Dust (Calibration)	
*[x]	Methane & Oxygen Deficiency Testing	10/1/83	[ ]	Noise	
*[ ]	Electrical		*[ ]	Impoundments	
*[ ]	Energized Surface High Voltage		*[ ]	Hoisting Engineer	

*Annual Retraining Required

Section II (Metal/Non-Metal and Coal)
MSHA Training Programs Completed

Date of Hire 1/76 Date Training Plan Approved 1/9/79

Required Training (Victim)		Date Training Received	Required Training (Victim)		Date Training Received
[ ]	New Miner (U.G.)		[ ]	Hazard Training (U.G.)	
[ ]	New Miner (Sur.)		[ ]	Hazard Training (Sur.)	
[x]	Newly Employed Experienced (U.G)	6/16/81			
[ ]	Newly Employed Experienced (Sur.)		Task Training Specify Type:		
[x]	Annual Refresher (U.G.)	10/1/83			
[ ]	Annual Refresher (Sur.)				

Section III

Company Training Program Completed:

Training	OJT/Formal	Instructor	Date Completed
Annual Retraining		James Hawkins	10/1/83

Section IV

Did victim have training specifically related to the task being performed at the time of the accident?

☐ YES ☐ NO WHEN?_____

Section V

Recommend Training Plan Evaluation by Education and Training Office?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Data Sheet

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Section A—Victim Data (Injured)

1. Name: Holly Smith

2. Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female

3. Social Security Number: 400-88-8695

4. Age: 27

5. Job Classification: Continuous mining machine operator

6. Experience at this Classification: 3 years

7. Total Mining Experience: 6 years

8. What activity was being performed at time of accident? Operating continuous mining machine

9. Victim's Experience at this Activity: 3 years

10. Was victim trained in this task? Yes

Section B—Victim Data for Health and Safety Courses/Training Received *(related to accident)*	Date Received
11. Annual Retraining	4/30/83
12.	
13.	
14.	

Section C—Supervisor Data *(supervisor of victim)*

15. Name: Harold R. Phillips

16. Certified: ☒ Yes ☐ No

17. Experience as Supervisor: 1½ years

18. Total Mining Experience: 5 years 8 months

Section D—Supervisor Data for Health and Safety Courses/Training Received *(related to accident)*	Date Received
19. Annual Retraining	4/30/83
20.	
21.	
22.	

23. When was the supervisor last present at accident scene prior to the accident? Present at time of accident

24. What did he do when he was there? Observed mining operations

25. When was he last in contact with the victim? Immediately prior to accident

26. Did he issue instructions relative to the accident? Yes

27. Was he aware of or did he express an awareness of any unsafe practice or condition? Yes

Section I (Coal Only)

MSHA and/or State Certification and/or Qualification

Mine ID 46-05801 Smith

	Date Training Plan Approved 1/9/84	Date Training Received			Date Training Received
*[X]	Certified Person (Underground)		[ ]	Dust	
*[ ]	Certified Person (Surface)		[ ]	Dust (Calibration)	
*[X]	Methane & Oxygen Deficiency Testing	4/30/83	[ ]	Noise	
*[ ]	Electrical		*[ ]	Impoundments	
*[ ]	Energized Surface High Voltage		*[ ]	Hoisting Engineer	

*Annual Retraining Required

Section II (Metal/Non-Metal and Coal)
MSHA Training Programs Completed

Date of Hire 5/30/78 Date Training Plan Approved 1/9/79

Required Training (Victim)		Date Training Received	Required Training (Victim)		Date Training Received
[ ]	New Miner (U.G.)		[ ]	Hazard Training (U.G.)	
[ ]	New Miner (Sur.)		[ ]	Hazard Training (Sur.)	
[X]	Newly Employed Experienced (U.G)	5/30/78			
[ ]	Newly Employed Experienced (Sur.)		Task Training Specify Type:		
[X]	Annual Refresher (U.G.)	4/30/83			
[ ]	Annual Refresher (Sur.)				

Section III

Company Training Program Completed:

Training	OJT/Formal	Instructor	Date Completed
Annual Retraining		Lenville Mahon	4/30/83

Section IV

Did victim have training specifically related to the task being performed at the time of the accident?

☐ YES ☐ NO WHEN?_____

Section V

Recommend Training Plan Evaluation by Education and Training Office?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Special Data Sheet

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Section A—Information Required in Electrical Accident Reports

1. Voltage of Circuit Involved

2. Voltage to Which Victim was Exposed

3. Type of Supply Circuitry (trolley wire, portable rectifier, wye connected secondary, delta connected secondary)

4. Type, Size and Insulation Rating of Conductor Involved

5. Electrical Protection for Circuit

6. Ground Fault Trip Value (3 phase only)

7. Wiring Diagram of Circuit Involved (attach seperate drawing)

8. Condition of Mine Floor

9. Was victim wearing rubber boots?

☐ Yes ☐ No

9a. Condition of Boots

10. Was victim wearing gloves?

☐ Yes ☐ No

10a. Type

10b. Condition

11. Type of Grounding for Equipment

Section B—Information Required in Accidents Involving Equipment

12. Name of Manufacturer of Machine Involved

Lee-Norse

13. Model, Approval Number and Type of Machine

Model 245-10-7E, Serial No. 8567, Approval No. 2G2513A-13, continuous mining machine

14. Machine Voltage

440 ac

15. Did design of machine contribute to accident?

☐ Yes ☒ No

16. Did maintenance deficiencies contribute to accident?

☐ Yes ☒ No

17. Name of official responsible for maintenance of equipment.

Roland Beladonna

18. Experience of Operator

3 years

19. Was machine being operated within safe limits of its capability? (if no, explain why)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Section C—Remarks

The accident occurred as a result of a coal outburst related to the method of mining employed.

Special Data Sheet

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Section A—Information Required in Electrical Accident Reports

1. Voltage of Circuit Involved

2. Voltage to Which Victim was Exposed

3. Type of Supply Circuitry (trolley wire, portable rectifier, wye connected secondary, delta connected secondary)

4. Type, Size and Insulation Rating of Conductor Involved

5. Electrical Protection for Circuit

6. Ground Fault Trip Value (3 phase only)

7. Wiring Diagram of Circuit Involved (attach separate drawing)

8. Condition of Mine Floor

9. Was victim wearing rubber boots?

☐ Yes ☐ No

9a. Condition of Boots

10. Was victim wearing gloves?

☐ Yes ☐ No

10a. Type

10b. Condition

11. Type of Grounding for Equipment

Section B—Information Required in Accidents Involving Equipment

12. Name of Manufacturer of Machine Involved

Galis

13. Model, Approval Number and Type of Machine

Model No. 300, S/N 52278, roof bolting machine

14. Machine Voltage

440 ac

15. Did design of machine contribute to accident?

☐ Yes ☒ No

16. Did maintenance deficiencies contribute to accident?

☐ Yes ☒ No

17. Name of official responsible for maintenance of equipment.

18. Experience of Operator

19. Was machine being operated within safe limits of its capability? (if no, explain why)

☒ Yes ☐ No

Section C—Remarks

The accident occurred as a result of a coal outburst related to the method of mining employed.